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Aerospace Division

Susan Clifford

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AEROSPACE DIVISION

The objectives of the Aerospace Division are to encourage the free exchange of ideas and information between libraries and librarians who are directly concerned with aerospace technology and related sciences; and to maintain a dialog with NASA and other governmental agencies upon whom we rely as sources of technical data and bibliographic sources.

FROM THE CHAIR

SUSAN CLIFFORD



Where has the summer gone? I know, I know, time flies when you're having fun ... but seriously, all that time we said we had before us in San Francisco as we furthered our plans for Cincin-

nati is rapidly disappearing! Remember the cookbook I said we were working on with the Engineering Division? Well, we still need your input and we still intend to offer it for sale next June. We'd like to have contributions from as many of our members and their CEOs as possible. I am but a brief fax away, and few recipes are more than a page long!

Division committee chairpersons are interested in your input, too, and they welcome suggestions for new programs, recruiting ideas, publicity sources, etc. They are, by the way:

Chair elect:

Mala Sistla (404) 494-5711

Past chair:

Sandy Moltz (617) 594-5363

Secretary:

Kay Salm (310) 948-9310

Treasurer:

Sandy Spurlock (505) 828-5378

Bulletin editor:

Don Welch (817) 280-3608

Archivist:

Norm Brackett (616) 241-7467

Public relations:

Kathy Harkness (206) 773-0584

Gov't relations:

Joyce Thompson-Stipe (202) 358-0180

Membership:

Nan Paik (310) 922-4648

Strategic planning:

Barbara Lawrence (212) 247-6500

Projects:

Dottie Moon (203) 565-0386

Kathy, our public relations chair, also urges me to remind you that applications are being accepted now for the Faxon-sponsored George Mandel Award. Open to all division members, its purpose is to promote leadership and participation in division programs at annual SLA conference, by funding a member's attendance at the conference. The application deadline is November 1, 1992, so get your applications in to me as soon as possible. And, **note this**, I have a new address:

Hughes Aircraft Company

Library Bldg. R4 M/S D538

P.O. BOX 92919

Los Angeles, CA 90009

(310) 334-1700; 334-1101 (FAX)

Lastly, there has been some discussion among division members about sponsoring a continuing education program as a fund raiser and/or as a vehicle to increase Aerospace Division visibility. Please let me know of your interest in this effort. There are a number of possible topics of current interest - INTERNET, copyright, non-traditional employee incentives, and others, any of which I am sure would interest many of you. Please let me hear from you.

CHANGE OF MANIFESTS?

Changing jobs? Buying a house? Adding a telefax? The division keeps and tracks any, and many, bits and bytes of information like that listed above. As a consequence, the division needs you to

send it the corrections which will help it keep both you and itself up-to-date.

Changes of address, etc., should be sent to:

Nan Paik, Membership Chair
Rockwell International
12214 Lakewood Blvd.
Downey, CA 90241

STILL FLYING HIGH

Publications still on sale, by the division, are:

Translations of scientific and technical literature : a guide to their location. By Kathleen Wright. 1987. \$20.00.

and

Criss-cross directory of NASA 'N' and DoD 'AD' numbers, Volume 2. Edited by George Mandel. 1989. \$55.00.

A Corporate Librarian's Mini-Collection:



Corporate Library Excellence

1990 ISBN 0-87111-367-8 137p.
\$31.25 Members: \$25.00

From the Top: Profiles of U.S. and Canadian Corporate Libraries and Information Centers

1989 ISBN 0-87111-344-9 313p.
\$31.25 Members: \$25.00

Valuing Corporate Libraries: A Survey of Senior Managers

1990 ISBN 0-87111-358-9 18p.
\$6.25 Members: \$5.00

The Managerial Competencies of Twelve Corporate Librarians

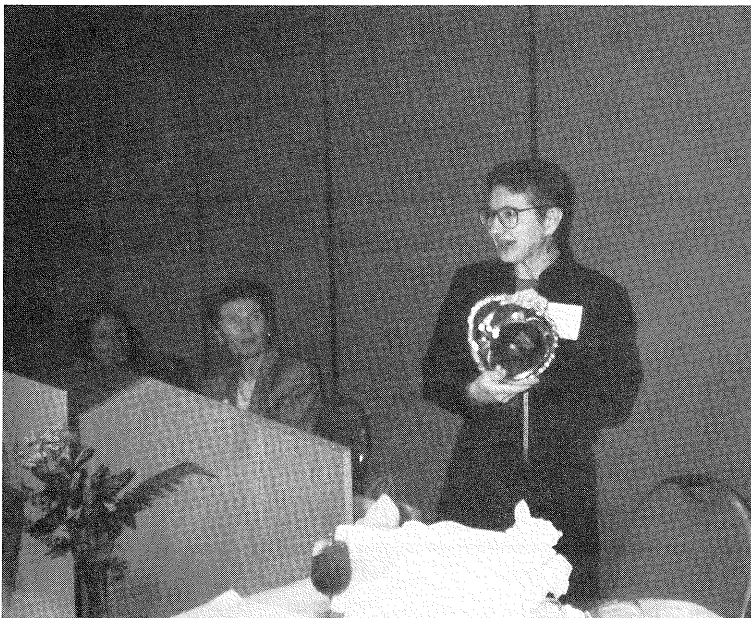
1988 ISBN 0-87111-322-5 37p.
\$8.75 Members: \$7.00

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LANDING LITES



Seen circling the division business meeting in San Francisco was Kitty Scott, newly elected president of the SLA. She's at right above with Phyllis Fischer, at left. Both Kitty and Phyllis have logged a lot of hours for the division, as "pilots," "co-pilots," and "crew."



Sandy Moltz shares a moment, and a smile, with division members, holding aloft an engraved silver tray the division gave her for her time and leadership in 1991-1992.

THINKING ABOUT . . . Anyone Can Be a Librarian

By Guy St. Clair

A recent column (in *The One-Person Library*) suggested that the concept of the librarian as a miracle worker was getting a little out of hand, that some of us in the library and information services community were beginning to believe our own publicity. And it also suggested that the “mystique” of librarianship as practiced today is not, perhaps, quite so mystical. We’re just doing our job.

Not so, according to some of the readers of that column (a surprisingly large number of them, as a matter of fact). While agreeing that some in the profession should “lighten up a little” (as I put it in the column), there are other concerns which should be considered.

One concern, according to Kerry Smith in City Beach, Western Australia, is that all professionals have a certain “mystique” or distinctive quality about them. In fact, it is usually this very distinction which makes the practitioners of that profession employable. These people have special education, skills, training, experiences and, as our correspondent pointed out, sometimes even their own vocabulary. It is this distinction that their organization has hired, so that the organizational team will have a professional with that education, those skills, and that experience on board.

Well put.

Smith continues, and makes an even more interesting point, and one which bears quoting:

“I do not know what it is like in the USA, but here in Australia, there is a tendency for many corporate employers to state that ‘anyone can be a librarian’ and do librarianship tasks. This misconception seems to have arisen for a number of reasons:

“Corporate leaders, while recognizing that information does have a value, even though this might be difficult to quantify, are not prepared to make a worthwhile investment in information management - as apart from information systems management.

“Corporate employers are ‘under-employing,’ i.e., they are employing new and inexperienced graduates, or those still at university, to undertake a job which should be given to an experienced librarian, because the inexperienced are cheaper. (They) then chastise the profession for shoddy training and work.

“Unfortunately, some in our profession have not done us proud out there in corporate land and have not offered and undertaken those value-added services that we can do so well.

“So with some of these considerations in mind, is it any wonder that librarians prefer to preserve some mystique about their profession?”

I’m not so sure. The distinctions between “professional” and “clerical” tasks are our distinctions, not distinctions made by our users, our managers and our supervisors. If the employee in a

one-person library wants to be perceived as a “professional,” then he or she must perform as a “professional.” And this means accepting the responsibility of one’s actions, letting one’s boss know when a task is not cost effective (in the value of the librarian’s time), letting users know when a different way of doing something can save them and the organization money or time, recognizing and accepting accountability for the work we do, in short, letting those with whom we work know that we are professionals, as managers and as librarians.

When we think about the subject of our professionalism, or who we are, in these terms, it seems to me that it doesn’t really matter whether we see ourselves as “one-person” or “one-professional” or “solo” or any other label. For there is, in the truest sense of the term, no “one-person” library. By embracing a larger world, by understanding that our vision of library service for our organization includes being able to use whatever resources we can find to do the work we must do for our users, we take ourselves beyond the limitations of a single-staff library and become part of the library and information services field at large. And by taking this step, by going outside the walls of our own library or information center, we are able to provide the services and information our users come to us for. We do not terminate their quest with a “I’m-sorry-we-can’t-do-that” or a “No-it’s-not-available” response. In other words, we do what our users (and our managers) expect us to do. We perform professionally. And when we perform professionally, we are perceived as professionals, and by then it doesn’t matter whether there’s a

“mystique” to librarianship or not. It doesn’t make any difference.

Reprinted from *The One-Person Library : A Newsletter for Librarians and Management*. Volume 9 (3), July 1992. Copyright 1992 by OPL Resources Ltd., Murray Hill Station, PO BOX 948, New York, NY 10516

BEAMING TO YOU

The story of the century - the exploration of space - will be coming to you via public television soon. On October 12, 1992, (at 8 p.m.) the first of six episodes of “Space Age”, a documentary commemorating the International Space Year (ISY), is planned for broadcast on public television. Check listings to confirm the time and channel for you.

Narrated by Patrick Stewart, the actor who plays Captain Jean-Luc Picard in “Star Trek: The Next Generation”, the series is touted as one that “will bring the adventure of space exploration into the homes of millions of television viewers.”

The six episodes cover a range of subjects, including a look at Mars and the way we think about and manage the Earth now that we have seen it from space. The series is a production of WQED/Pittsburgh and the Japanese Public Television Network (NHK), in association with the National Academy of Sciences. International co-producers are TROS/The Netherlands and SVT-1/Sweden.

STRAIGHT AERO

By Don Welch

I have to know - has anybody in the division got, or ordered, a *Who's Who in Science and Engineering, 1992-1993*?

I've received an invitation to apply for a listing in the next edition, the second, which is to be for 1994-1995, and I'm wondering if this isn't a ploy, or carrot on a stick. True, I've served patrons here for five years, but I don't think that makes me worthy of (what amounts to) immortalization.

It's gotta be a ploy.

Then again, I do edit a simply wonderful column you've all seen and read. That's worth something, isn't it? But, the big 'I'?

Maybe it's because I was secretary of a local education association's corporate library committee? No, I don't think so - not technical enough, nor scientific.

It must be a ploy - to get me to buy a copy. Do you know that an engineer here asked me to get a copy? I soon discovered why; he showed me he had gotten an invitation to apply, too. Small world, isn't it?

Anyway. Some of you may remember that last year I reported on the special library affiliation (as I defined it) of recently elected American Library Association counselors. Ten of 26 were with academic libraries or library schools, and eight were with public libraries. Another five were school librarians. Not a one was from a special library.

Well, there's not a one from special libraries this year either.

There wasn't even a candidate from a special library.

A trustee applied, though, and lost. The only candidate from a publishing

house won a counselor's seat, as did the only one who ran last year. Is this a conspiracy, or what? We'll have to keep an eye on these guys.

In all, eight of the newly seated counselors were from academic libraries or library schools; 15 were from public libraries, the big winners in 1992. Only two winners were from school libraries.

Let's talk about coincidences now ... and the vagaries of life.

Sitting here, in Texas, I lose track, as we all do, of the connectedness of things and/or events. I mean, something happens in Oregon, like a fire in the forest, and I might suffer, or celebrate, over the consequences of it. (And, no, I don't appreciate forest fires.) But, I do have a point and that's that something can happen somewhere and still impact me even though I am not there.

Let me illustrate. A patron lost a book. I wanted to replace it. It was published in 1970. It was titled *Aero-science: A basic textbook for aeroscience courses*. Published by Aero Products Research, Inc., in California, it had the feel, or the bloodline, of a product that's published for an eternity, or until the company goes broke, whichever comes first. I decided to call Aero Products Research myself and get an answer, if I could get both a number and the time.

Well, I did get a number, directly from *Thomas Register*, and I got the time. I called, and was numbed to learn that all copies, and the negatives, were destroyed in a fire. The book had been available, but now it was destroyed, never to be published again.

I was dumbfounded; I was crestfallen. Then it dawned on me that Aero Research Products was in Los Angeles. (I

didn't tell you that earlier, did I?) And, Los Angeles is where there had been fires and riots recently. Could it be that the latter had destroyed the former?

I had to know then. I called Aero Research Products back and I asked if it had lost the book in the riots. No, I learned (to ruin the story), but the fire at Aero Research Products (late in the 1980s) did deny the firm a bestseller, the firm's representative said.

This just shows you how easy it could be, and is, for events to affect you, even when they are miles and miles away. It's something I realize now because I originally just had to know.

Which reminds me, does anybody have Who's Who ... ?

IN A HOLDING PATTERN

Rumors making there way to the office here were that NERAC, to which some of you subscribe, was not updating all of the electronic files it searches for clients. Notably, for those in the aerospace industry, anyway, the NASA and the Aerospace Database files were not being updated and had not been since December 1991.












Mike Mahoney, a NERAC technical specialist with training and experience in the aviation and electronics fields, said recently that the files, while current through the end of 1991, were not being updated at the time he spoke. He said, however, that NERAC was evaluating the situation on an on-going basis and that he personally "had conducted some studies to see what is missed" in the way of coverage.

All the material that NASA releases is covered by files for the National

Technical Information Center (NTIS), he said. Material published by the AIAA, which is announced in the Aerospace Database, is covered "about 50 percent" by other databases he uses, he said. Primarily those would be the Engineering Information file and the Society of Automotive Engineers database, plus, to a lesser degree, "a variety of other databases."

He characterized the situation as one that was in evaluation. Depending upon what clients wanted, first, and whether or not NERAC could get it for a reasonable price, second, were questions NERAC was going to have to keep asking itself, he said.

Stay tuned for the next flight heading.

 <p>FEDRIP</p> <p>Quick! Which federal agencies support AIDS research?</p> <p>Try asking FEDRIP.</p> <p>Weird name. Who's FEDRIP?</p> <p>Not who – What...</p> <p>OK, What's FEDRIP?</p> <p>It's an electronic database from NTIS of current U.S. government research. NTIS updates FEDRIP every month. They announce about 135,000 projects each year.</p> 	 <p>FEDRIP</p> <p>How can FEDRIP help me?</p> <p>It tells you who's working on a particular project, which agency is sponsoring it, what's been discovered so far and a lot more. It's so current, there's no printed version.</p> <p>Which agencies contribute to FEDRIP?</p> <p>Right now, the U.S. Geological Survey; the National Science Foundation; the Depts. of Agriculture, Energy, Transportation, Health & Human Services, and Veterans Affairs; the National Institute of Standards & Technology; NASA; EPA; and the U.S. Small Business Administration. They're adding more agencies all the time.</p> 
 <p>FEDRIP</p> <p>What kind of information will I find on FEDRIP?</p> <p>Everything from AIDS research to fiber optics to contaminant spills and more.</p> 	 <p>FEDRIP</p> <p>Why do they call it FEDRIP?</p> <p>FEDRIP stands for FEDeral Research In Progress. We use it to avoid duplication of research, to identify funding sources, to supplement 'State of the Art' reports, and as a "who's who" of experts.</p> 
<p>FEDRIP</p> <p>How can I find out more about FEDRIP?</p>  <p>Call NTIS at 703-487-4650 and ask for their free FEDRIP Search Guide. (PR-847). You can also sign up for a free FEDRIP training seminar by writing to the NTIS Online Database Training Coordinator, Springfield, VA 22161.</p> 	<p>FEDRIP</p>  <p>Do you think NTIS would be interested in hearing my ideas on a new name for FEDRIP?</p> <p>Only if you've searched the database at least once.</p> 